

Name Chief of Arsenal Project To Aid Small Business Firms

Washington, June 30. (Copley Press Leased Wire) —E. John Egan today was named by the defense department to aid small business firms interested in learning how they may participate in the current military program, with headquarters at the Joliet, Ill., arsenal.

The Joliet arsenal was chosen among 34 sample display and procurement centers in 16 states to help "little firms" in landing army supply contracts.

It will be Egan's job, according to the Pentagon, not only to help small business firms making inquiries about sharing in the rearmament program but to locate sources capable of filling army needs.

Egan will be one of 200 such small business specialists located in 33 states across the country. The group will assist federal state and authorized private agencies in making an inventory of productive facilities of small busi-

ness concerns; review requirements prior to procurement action; make recommendations to contracting officers with respect to competency, capacity, and credit of specific small businesses capable of fulfilling arms and material wants.

The move was taken by the army, it is said, to answer criticism levelled by congress against defense procurement agencies for awarding large corporations the bulk of the remobilization contracts.

Egan and others, the army said, will be charged with giving maximum assistance to small companies in search of arms orders. Specialists from the planning offices met recently at the pentagon to devise techniques which will be used to bring small business into the military production program as laid down by army Undersecretary Archibald S. Alexander.